Setback to Apparel exports

2206. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apparel exports from India have suffered a set back due to quota restrictions imposed by some countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of apparel exporters of the country have shifted their venue of production to outside the country; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose any move in this matter, if so, details of such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKETASWAMY): (a) USA, European Community, Canada, Austria, Norway and Finland apply quantitative restrictions in respect of imports of certain textile and clothing products from India. In recent years, India has been completely utilising the quotas available to it in these countries in respect of restrained products and therefore, the scope for further increase in exports gets limited. However, there is scope for increasing textile and garment exports to non-quota countries and also in respect of non-quota items in quota countries referred to above.

(b) and (c) A few apparel exporters have reportedly set up production centres in other countries in addition to their production facility in India in order to increase the volume of their business in respect of quota items.

Export of cotton handloom items

2207. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of cotton handloom items exported during the year 1993-94;

(b) the efforts being made to tap the international market and promote exports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to export handloom items to South Africa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The exports of cotton handloom fabrics and made-ups during period April, 93—January, 94 have amounted to Rs. 1052 crores (provisional).

(b) to (d) India's handloom goods are being exported to more than hundred countries of the world, including South Africa. Government have been taking a number of steps to promote handloom textile exports, such as sponsoring Buyer-Seller Meets, participation in fairs in major markets, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes.

Setting up of handloom development centres and dying units

2208. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a meeting of the representatives of the State Governments. Commissioners and Directors of Handlooms of State and Union Territories he assured the setting up of 3000 Handloom, Development Centres and 500 Quality Dyeing Units and announced schemes for handloom weavers under the on going programmes of the Rural Development Ministry;

(b) if so, the cost involved in implementing the same; and

(c) the allocation of funds proposed to be made in the budget for the purpose during the coming financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total outlay for setting up of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units is estimated at Rs. 849 crores out of which grant component